Government is providing various financial and fiscal incentives to the approved tourism units including Income Tax Examptions under Section 80 IB and 80 HHD of the Income Tax Act 1961; Interest Subsidy on Loans taken from the identified financial institutions by 1-3 Star and Heritage category hotels; Import of Speciality Food Items; Concessional Custom Duty on Imports under EPCG Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Private investments in tourism sector in Andhra Pradesh

1209. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private investment of Rs. 500 crore during the current year and Rs. 1700 crore for next three years for tourism sector is coming in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any concrete policy has been framed for new tourism projects to be taken up in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time they are likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, as per information provided by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy, 1998 certain incentivs and exemptions have been provided besides leasing land for tourism projects in the Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The details includes Investment Subsidy, Luxury Tax Exemption, Sales Tax Exemption, Road Tax Exemption, Stamp duty exemption, Exemptions from Zoning Regulations of the Municipalities and UDAs, Exemption from the provisions relating to Regulations of Employment Exchange (Notification of vacancies) and Excptions from general permissions to run in shift operations.

(d) These incentives and concessions are applicable to the Tourism Projects as and when they are set up by the private sector in Andhra Pradesh.